

Message Text

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DISTENGR RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAMA 0118

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP AND A/OS

SECDEF FOR SDR SICK, OSD/ISA AND DR. CARDINALE, OSD/M&RA

E.O.. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, MILI, BA

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN SCHOOL

1. BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO CONVEY
ESTIMATES FORWARDED BELOW IN VIEW OF INTEREST EXPRESSED IN-
FORMALLY BY CERTAIN ADDRESSEES IN MAINTAINING A BOARDING
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SCHOOL IN BAHRAIN ONCE SCHOOL BECOMES STRICTLY PRIVATE

INSTITUTION IN MID-1977. IN SO REQUESTING, TRUST CAUTIONS THAT FIGURES ARE ONLY ESTIMATES BASED ON REASONABLE BUT UNCERTAIN ASSUMPTIONS AND THEY DO NOT IN ANY WAY COMMIT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FUTURE BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TO SPECIFIC TUITION AND FEE FIGURES. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TUITION ESTIMATES (APPROXIMATELY \$2300 PER STUDENT PER YEAR FOR A K-8 SCHOOL, AN AVERAGE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2400 PER STUDENT PER YEAR FOR K-12 DAY SCHOOL, AND APPROXIMATELY \$6600 PER DORMITORY STUDENT PER YEAR FOR A BOARDING HIGH SCHOOL) ARE TUITION COSTS COVERING OPERATING EXPENSES ONLY. THEY DO NOT INCLUDE THE "BUILDING LEVY" WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO EQUIP AND MAINTAIN A DAY SCHOOL OR THE SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL OUTLAY DEEMED NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING BOARDING FACILITIES. PRESUMABLY THE BUILDING LEVY REQUIRED FOR A DAY SCHOOL ONLY WOULD BE NO MORE THAN, AND PERHAPS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN, THE PRESENT \$1000 PER STUDENT LEVY BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST IMPOSES ON NON-DOD STUDENTS AT THE BAHRAIN SCHOOL. THE BUILDING LEVY REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARDING STUDENTS, HOWEVER, WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A BOARDING SCHOOL ARE MET.

2. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: FROM A SERIES OF MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND WITH CONCERNED GOB OFFICIALS, FOLLOWING PICTURE EMERGES RE FUTURE OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL; PRIVATE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND GOB ARE DETERMINED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PRIVATE AMERICAN-CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN BAHRAIN AFTER USDESEA CEASES TO OPERATE PRESENT BAHRAIN SCHOOL IN MID-1977. ON BASIS ESTIMATES SUBMITTED HERewith, PRIVATE COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE CONFIDENT K-8 SCHOOL WILL BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE AND ARE INCREASINGLY REASSURED THAT A DAY HIGH SCHOOL WORTHY OF ACCREDITATION CAN BE MAINTAINED ON AN ECONOMICALLY SOUND BASIS. GOB OFFICIALS CONCERNED HAVE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION AND HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT ASSOCIATION MAY PROCEED TO ORGANIZE ITSELF FORMALLY PENDING THE PROMISED PASSAGE OF A LAW ON NON-PROFIT CORPORATE ENTITIES WHICH WOULD GIVE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION SOUND LEGAL STATUS. ORGANIZATION OF ASSOCIATION AND SELECTION OF ITS BOARD OF GOVERNORS IS ANTICIPATED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HESITATION ON THE PART OF THE GOB OR PRIVATE COMMUNITY ABOUT PERMITTING PROPOSED BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TO INCLUDE A DORMITORY PROGRAM IF DORMITORY PROGRAM CAN BE SELF-FINANCING. IN FACT, PRIVATE COMMUNITY LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT ADDITIONAL DORMITORY STUDENTS COULD EXPAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BODY IN A MANNER ENHANCING THE BREADTH AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL. AT SAME TIME, THOSE AMERICAN AND OTHER PRIVATE INTERESTS RESIDENT IN BAHRAIN FEEL NEITHER CAPABLE NOR

COMPELLED TO UNDERTAKE THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS REQUIRED FOR A PRIVATE DORMITORY PROGRAM AND THUS WOULD EXPECT ANY USG OR PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE OF BAHRAIN WISHING TO CONTINUE TO USE BAHRAIN SCHOOL ON DORMITORY BASIS TO ASSUME FULL FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF DORMITORY PROGRAM. BUSINESS LEADERS BEHIND PRESENT BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST, AND SOON-TO-BE-SELECTED BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, ARE QUIRE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUCH UNDERTAKINGS WITH INTERESTED GROUPS FROM OUTSIDE BAHRAIN THOUGH THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD PREFER TO DEAL WITH ONE BODY WHICH COULD SPEAK IN BEHALF OF ALL INTERESTED INSTITUTIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION. LOCAL AMERICAN SUPPORTERS OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL HAVE EXPRESSE A SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT BEGINNING SUCH A DIALOGUE SINCE THEY ANTICIPATE THAT IF FIRM COMMITMENTS TOWARD MAINTAINING DORMITORY PROGRAM ARE NOT MADE PRIOR TO JUNE OF THIS YEAR, THERE WILL BE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ABANDON THE OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING A DORMITORY HIGH SCHOOL. END COMMENT.

3. BAHRAIN SCHOOL COST/FEE ESTIMATES (FEBRUARY 2, 1976)
(A) K-8 DAY SCHOOL AMERICAN CURRICULUM - 400 STUDENTS
EST. COST \$917,000 (EXCLUDES FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT)
APPROXIMATELY \$2300/STUDENT PER YEAR EXCLUSIVE OF

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TUILDING LEVY

(B) K-12 DAY SCHOOL AMERICAN CURRICULUM - 505 STUDENTS
 EST. ANNUAL COST \$1,214,000 (EXCLUDES FURNITURE AND
 EQUIPMENT)

APPROXIMATELY \$2400/STUDENT PER YEAR EXCLUSIVE OF
 BUILDING LEVY

(C) K-12 BOARDING SCHOOL AMERICAN CURRICULUM - 625 STUDENTS,
 120 BOARDING

INCREMENTAL COST OF STAFF, SERVICES, ROOM AND BOARD \$793,000
 (EXCLUDES FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT)

\$6600/STUDENT/YEAR EXCLUSIVE OF BUILDING LEVY

(D) K-8 AND K-12 DAY SCHOOLS WILL NOT REQUIRE REPLACEMENT OF
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CLASSROOM BUILDING BUT WILL REQUIRE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATION
 FACILITIES AND POSSIBLY MODIFICATION OF DORMITORIES TO PROVIDE
 ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM SPACE.

RECREATION	\$ \$150,000	
MODIFICATIONS	500,000	
ARCHITECT	60,000	
SUB-TOTAL	710,000	
CONTINGENCY 10 PERCENT		70,000
TOTAL	\$780,000	

(E) K-12 BOARDING FACILITY FOR 120 BOARDERS WILL REQUIRE
 IMMEDIATE PLANNING TO REPLACE THE MAIN CLASSROOM BUILDING AND
 KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM AS WELL AS UPGRADING RECREATIONAL
 FACILITIES.

BUILDINGS	\$3,262,500	
CIVIL WORKS	208,000	
ARCHITECT	245,000	
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT		540,000
SUB-TOTAL	4,255,000	
ESCALATION TO 1976 ABOUT 17 PERCENT		700,000
CONTINGENCY ON NEW CONSTRUCTION ABOUT 20 PERCENT		600,000
TOTAL	\$5,555,000	

(F) K-12 BOARDING SCHOOL INCREASE BOARDING TO 180 STUDENTS

NEW CONSTRUCTION	\$3,262,500	
DORMITORY RENOVATIONS		498,000
CIVIL WORKS	466,000	
ARCHITECT & MANAGEMENT FEES		899,000
SUB-TOTAL	\$5,125,500	

ESCALATION TO 1976 ABOUT 17 PERCENT	870,000
CONTINGENCY ON NEW CONSTRUCTION ABOUT 20 PERCENT	650,000
CONTINGENCY ON BALANCE OF PROGRAM ABOUT 10 PERCENT	200,000
TOTAL	\$6,845,500

(G) IN ADDITION TO THE COSTS ALREADY NOTED IN ITEMS A THROUGH F, SOME PROVISION FOR THE FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS MUST BE MADE. IT IS ASSUMED CONTINUATION OF THE BUILDING LEVY AT \$1000/STUDENT WILL COVER THE INITIAL EXPENDITURE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE DOD MATERIAL OR REPLACE IT.

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